

This year being an excellent fruiting year, I have been studying mangos a good deal, and I am astonished to find such a large number of excellent varieties that are undoubtedly seedlings even amongst our garden kinds.

With regard to your inquiry about the number of stamens in a flower. I have not made a particular study of this point, but so far as my memory goes only one fertile stamen was observed to one flower. Climatic conditions at the time of flowering very largely influence pollinating. Some years a crop is completely destroyed by rain or cloudy weather at the time of flowering. This year I experimented with bagging the flowers in order to prevent cross fertilization; although some fruits set, yet they dropped off very soon. A light, dry, and airy time is needed at time of flowering to ensure successful pollinating, and no irrigation should be done at that time.

Of the two varieties you mention I only know one, Mulgoa, this fruit is all right. I have never heard of a case where staminate flowers only are produced, although the inflorescence is of course polygamous.

There is one other point that I should like to bring to your notice, and that is our so called country Plums. These are supposed to be varieties of *Prunus domestica*, var. *insititia*. (Syn. *P. Bokhariensis*). These are supposed to have originally come from Bokhara. They are a distinct class of fruit, many are excellent, but I can find no record of them being grown in any other country than India. You may probably have come across them elsewhere in your extensive travels, and must have noticed them when you were in India. I hope to make a detailed study of them next year."